2nd March 1929].

Police

Alleged Police vigilence over the work of Mr. G. V. Ponniah Sastri.

* 1658 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. G. V. Ponniah Sastri, Member of the All-India Congress Committee and resident of Iticompadu, Bapatla taluk, Guntur district, was being watched and followed by a Criminal Investigation Department officer in January 1929 in the course of his village reconstruction work in Bapatla taluk from place to place; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information but have called for it.

Alleged Police espionage against political leaders.

* 1659 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered vigorous police espionage against all political leaders and workers since the Calcutta Congress;

(b) if so, why they have so ordered; and

(c) what is the additional cost to the Government in the Police Department on account of this Police espionage being vigorously carried on?

A.—(a) No.
(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that a large amount of police espionage is being carried on?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"If it is going on, who is responsible for it?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"That is hypothetical question."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know whether any Police officer can give order in this matter without specific orders from the Government?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I should like to have notice of the question."

Assignment of lands

Grant of land to ex-army men.

* 1660 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether all ex-army men, both combatants and non-combatants, who applied for lands have been given lands;

(b) whether any such applications are still pending disposal; and

(c) whether these men will still be given preference?